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N.I.A. 3

27 March 1946

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY

POLICY ON LIQUIDATION OF THE STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT

Report by the Director of Central Intelligence
with the unanimous concurrence of the
Intelligence Advisory Board

1. The Executive Order of 20 September 1945, referring to functions of the Office of Strategic Services which were transferred to the War Department, stated: "The Secretary of War shall, whenever he deems it compatible with the national interest, discontinue and wind up all affairs relating thereto." At a meeting of intelligence representatives held in the War Department on 8 February, it was generally agreed that an authoritative group should promptly make a study to determine which functions and facilities of the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) should be preserved for permanent peacetime purposes after the liquidation of SSU. It was further agreed that prompt decisions should be reached as to which preserved functions should be operated by C.I.G., and which by departments or existing agencies.

2. The Central Intelligence Group is preparing a separate action for the purpose of initiating a comprehensive survey of existing facilities for the collection of foreign intelligence information. However, that survey will necessarily be a long-range matter, whereas the disposition of SSU raises urgent questions which should be decided immediately. Therefore, an interdepartmental committee was formed to survey the Strategic Services Unit and make recommendations as to its immediate disposition.

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3. Based on the recommendations contained in the report of this interdepartmental committee, the enclosed draft directives were prepared as a means of implementing those recommendations.

4. The enclosed directives have been unanimously agreed upon by the Director of Central Intelligence and the Intelligence Advisory Board, which included the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a member for the consideration of this matter.

5. It is therefore recommended that:

a. The National Intelligence Authority approve the draft directive in Enclosure A; and

b. Concurrently, the Secretary of War approve and issue the draft directive in Enclosure B.

6. Arrangements for a meeting of the National Intelligence Authority, at which the above recommendations may be considered, will be made by subsequent communication.

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